

TRIBUTE TO RIVERHEAD LIONS CLUB

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Riverhead Lions Club, an invaluable community service organization that is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a charter Lions Club. For the past half-century the Riverhead Lions Club has lived up to the spirit of Lionism—"We Serve"—by serving the needs of the children and elderly, the blind, and the poor of this east end Long Island community.

The charities and community programs that the members of the Riverhead Lions Club support have a profound effect on the quality of life of so many of my neighbors here on eastern Long Island. In the interest of time, I can name but a few, but they include the Guide Dog Foundation, scholarships for Riverhead High School students, the Riverhead Senior Citizens Center, Central Suffolk Hospital to the March of Dimes and regular food drives.

In its first 50 years of existence, the members of the Riverhead Lions Club are most fondly remembered in the community for the annual show, which evolved into the annual Christmas parade that delights the children and adults of Riverhead every December. Just as important, the Lions Club has sponsored the Riverhead Little League, provided free eye examinations and eyeglasses for the needy, and sponsored guide dog training and held dinner-dances to raise funds for the blind.

There were 31 charter members who founded the Riverhead Lions Club back in 1947. The two surviving charter members are Charles E. Gate, a retired attorney who now resides in Colorado, and John R. Bagshaw, a realtor who still lives in Riverhead.

Here on the east end of Long Island, just as they do across America, we treasure the close-knit, community spirit of our towns and villages, where neighbors help each other through their times of need. Mr. Speaker, Riverhead is a community where residents are committed to helping those in need, whether it's feeding a hungry child, helping a talented student afford a college education, or caring for an elderly neighbor.

That is why I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the Riverhead Lions Club on its 50th anniversary. For half a century, the Lions Club has done more than just help their neighbors who need it, or provide recreational opportunities for their children. The Lions Club has also provided the citizens of Riverhead the opportunity to express their strong love for the community by getting involved and by helping their neighbors. Congratulations to the Riverhead Lions Club, and may it enjoy many more happy anniversaries to come.

JUSTICE FOR KEVIN CROSSAN

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to

speak out about an injustice being perpetrated against a group of Irish nationals who have lived in this country as law-abiding citizens, but who our Government is seeking to deport.

These men have American families—wives, children, grandchildren—that would be torn apart by their deportations. They are also part of our communities. They are our neighbors.

One of these men in particular, Kevin Crossan, lives in my community in New York. His wife, Joyce, is an American.

Kevin was arrested by the British authorities, beaten, tortured, and ultimately convicted in a special political court with no jury. He served 14 years as a political prisoner in Long Kesh Prison. Upon his release he was again harassed, as was Joyce who was herself arrested and detained in Castlereagh for 3 days. She sued the chief of the Royal Ulster Constabulary for unlawful detainment, and the British authorities admitted their guilt through a settlement.

If the Crossans are sent back to Northern Ireland, it is fairly certain that they will again face harassment from the authorities.

So why is our Government trying so hard to deport Kevin? No other government has demanded that he be turned over. He clearly has a well founded fear of persecution if they are sent back. He has posed no threat to this country in the 6 years he has lived here. His deportation would destroy an American family.

Mr. Speaker, I have often taken to the floor of this House to speak out against the cruel and mindless immigration laws we have in this country. The inexplicable heartlessness with which this family is being treated is simply one more example of an immigration system that too often ignores the pleas of those who have come here seeking asylum from government oppression and the opportunity to make a new life.

The community I represent hopes that the Crossans will soon win the right to remain here in the United States, free from the fear they left behind in Northern Ireland.

THE OCCUPATIONAL TAX EQUITY ACT OF 1997

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Occupational Tax Equity Act of 1997, a bill which will abolish the special occupational tax—an antiquated nuisance tax on producers, wholesalers, and retailers of beer, wine, and spirits.

In particular, thousands of small mom and pop businesses are saddled with paying an additional \$250 per year which is regressive and—in fact—a piggyback tax on top of countless Federal, State, and local taxes.

We are spending more to collect less and, as we in Congress look to streamline the Nation's revenue collection system, we should be particularly horrified by the cost of enforcing special occupational tax payment compliance—a compliance that borders nearly 50 percent.

This bill also includes provisions to revise the current drawback regulation for non-beverage alcohol producers and replace it with a more efficient means of collection. Here again,

Mr. Speaker, the system of assessing and collecting these drawback taxes add complicated and costly steps to doing business in America.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bill, H.R. 1620, the Occupational Tax Equity Act of 1997.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID EATON REYNOLDS

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David Eaton Reynolds, a young man from Eaton, CO, who had planned to celebrate this day, his last day of high school, with friends and classmates. However, for reasons known only to the Almighty, David was called home to the Lord on Monday, April 7, 1997.

The proud son of Allen and Lynda Reynolds, David was a very courageous young man who loved participating in life despite a long-term illness. He was a manager on the Eaton High School football team and a member of the Knowledge Bowl. He had a keen interest in current events, especially political issues, and ran his own newspaper, The Eaton Gazette. He also enjoyed traveling and doing things with his three brothers and cousins.

I came to know David when he volunteered on my congressional campaign last fall. He faithfully came to our headquarters and became an integral part of our volunteer effort, cheerfully performing important tasks such as telephoning people and asking for their vote. He carried out each assignment with much enthusiasm and determination, as if the outcome of the election was solely his responsibility.

As a devoted Christian, David was a member of the United Congregational Church of Eaton. He lived his faith every day exemplifying the principles of honesty, compassion, charity, and love.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to David. He is going to be missed by so many in the community, most especially his parents and brothers, and his many friends including me, but we can say our lives were enriched because we knew David Eaton Reynolds, a young man who loved his family and living life to its fullest. Surely, at the gates of Heaven he is able to say, as the Apostle Paul did, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

AUTHORIZING 1997 SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY TO BE RUN THROUGH CAPITOL GROUNDS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 67, the Special Olympics Torch Relay. I think it is a wonderful idea to utilize the Capitol grounds to honor these fine Americans.